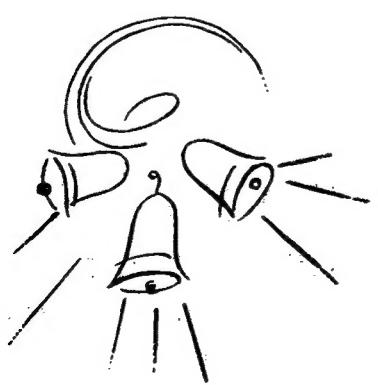




Elizabeth Brookes
Wedding Advisory Service

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**MANTON'S
MANTON & SONS LTD.
Bourke - Street - Central
MELBOURNE**



The Beginning . . .

In writing this little book for you I have tried to answer all the general questions you would like to ask about your wedding. You will find some of the newest and the oldest ideas about wedding frocks and veils, about the bridesmaids, the wedding breakfast and the reception.

All the formalities are clearly set out—from the time when you begin to make out lists of guests to the crowning moment when you drive away amidst a shower of rose leaves and good wishes. As you read through the book you will find information about your new home and its furnishing, a full list for the kitchen and the linen press and, I hope, many hints to save making mistakes in the rush and excitement of getting married.

But I know that no book could answer every question; after you have read it from cover to cover there will still be questions of your own that require special working out, and I want you to come and see me as soon as you can. Leave plenty of time before the wedding, or, if you cannot come to town, write to me at Manton's. After all most families don't have a wedding very often, and the free Advisory Service is there to give just that help you are needing.

So that this is really only the beginning—together we can be sure of making your wedding day a happy success.

With very best wishes,

Elizabeth Brookes

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How to Get Married

When two people decide to get married there are certain definite formalities to be observed. Most marriages are by license these days and the clergyman will require the following particulars for entry in the Marriage Register:

1. Full names of bride and groom.
2. Whether spinster or bachelor, widow or widower, or divorced person.
3. Birthplace and date of birth.
4. Full name of father, and christian and maiden surname of mother.
5. In cases where either the bride or the bridegroom is under the age of 21 years the consent of the parents (if living together) must be obtained on the form provided.

Be prepared with these details so that no time will be wasted at this busy period re-visiting the clergyman. It is usual to give the clergyman at least 14 days' clear notice of your intention to marry but he must have at least three clear days. If there is urgent need of marriage in less than three days an affidavit must be sworn before a Justice of the Peace.

The wedding ceremony differs according to the ritual and custom of the different churches, and while it would not be possible to give a complete account of these differences in this book, I want you to know that I will be glad to set your mind at rest on any point which puzzles you in connection with church formalities.

Marriage by banns is rare nowadays, but if you prefer this way, the banns must be read on three consecutive Sundays in the parishes of both bride and bridegroom who should have resided in these parishes for at least 15 days before the commencement of the reading of banns.

The usual fee accorded a clergyman officiating at a wedding is three guineas, but in no church is there a hard and fast rule about fees. The amount given will vary with the bridegroom's wishes.

It is not now essential to use the exact form of service printed in the prayer book; if you wish you may use the revised, modernised form which excludes the promise to obey.

MARRIAGE DURING LENT.

Most churches are not in favour of weddings during the Lenten period; under certain circumstances, however, a marriage may be arranged and in this case no flowers are permitted and frequently there is no music. Lent extends from Ash Wednesday until 12 o'clock on Easter Saturday.

CIVIL MARRIAGE

Civil marriages in Melbourne are conducted by the Government Statist, with whom an appointment must be made at least three days in advance of the date decided upon for the ceremony. The usual legal forms must be filled in, and if either of the parties is under age the consent of the parents (in writing) must be produced. If being married by the Registrar, it is usual to take two witnesses, both over the age of 21. The bride wears a simple suit or day frock and may wear or carry flowers. There should not be a best man or bridesmaids.

Choosing Your Ring



This ring that you will wear all through your life is an important and a sacred symbol; but at the same time you must not forget that it is a piece of jewellery of which you will want to be proud. Perhaps it is for both reasons that a bride is allowed to accompany her fiance to the jewellers on the day it is bought. Allow yourself plenty of time to have the initials engraved inside. Your wedding ring should be narrow, and made of white gold or the more expensive platinum; it may be either plain or chased. If you prefer yellow gold, the ring should be of about 18 carat quality. And, of course, the very last word in modern luxury is the wedding ring set with tiny diamonds or alternating stones all the way round.

About Your Presents

The wedding presents are usually sent well in advance by the invited guests, so you should have ample time to arrange them on a spare table ready for inspection. Leave the sender's card attached to each present and group them as attractively as you can. If you are not having the wedding reception at your own home, you may have to make a list of the presents and senders' names and take it to the place of the reception where it should be displayed in a place conspicuous to everyone. The expense of having the presents packed and moved is quite considerable, and when the breakfast is held outside the home, the usual way is to have only the gift list at the reception meanwhile inviting friends to come to your house a day or two before for a view of the wedding presents.



It is a good idea to write a brief note of thanks as soon as you receive a wedding gift. It is easy to do, and will save having a large correspondence when you return from your honeymoon. Another important point is to keep a written record as each gift comes in, so that there will be no chance of making a mistake later.

The bridegroom will probably receive at his own address several gifts of a personal nature, which, after he has acknowledged them, he will take to the bride's house to be included in the general display.

As young couples are often asked now to choose a present for themselves and friends occasionally combine to purchase gifts of outstanding value, the possibility of receiving innumerable toast racks and cake dishes fortunately grows more and more remote.

PERSONAL GIFTS

Presents are given by bride to groom and bridegroom to bride—gifts which are usually of a permanent and personal nature. A travelling rug, cuff-links, cigarette case or suitcase would be the type of present the bride would give, but naturally, much will depend upon the tastes of the bridegroom, and you may choose a gift connected with his particular sport or hobby.

The bridegroom must present each of the bridesmaids with a small present to mark his recognition of their services. Very often the bridegroom's gift forms part of the wedding ensemble. When a bride and groom ask me what gift would be suitable for the maids I often suggest an evening bag or a string of pearls. Then there are bracelets, dress rings, earrings, handbags, and many other acceptable gifts—all somewhere about the price usually paid by the groom for this little token of gratitude.

Sometimes the bridegroom makes a small gift to the best man in appreciation of all he has done, but this is not absolutely necessary, and with all the expense of getting married, the simplest of gifts are in order.

How the Expenses are Shared

Although the wedding day is definitely the bride's day, she has really very little to do except look her best and keep calm! It is the bride's relations and friends who carry the weight of the wedding itself.

The bride's father will have the greater part of the expenses to pay, and the bride's mother will undertake most of the planning and arranging.

The expenses of the bride's family are:

The house linen and trousseau.

The wedding invitations and the wedding announcements in the press.

The wedding reception.

The cars to convey his daughter and her attendants to the church, and later to the place where the reception is to be held. Often the bride's father must also arrange a car for the clergyman and his wife.

The bridegroom pays for:

The wedding ring.

The music (if the ceremony is a choral one).

The clergyman's fee, marriage license and tips (to his own chauffeur and the verger of the church).

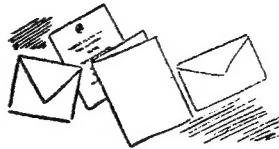
The bride's and bridesmaids' bouquets, the bridesmaids' gifts and often a gift to the best man.

His own car to and from the church.

We are not including the special gifts exchanged by bride and bridegroom under the heading of "expenses."

With regard to church decoration, this is also a matter for the attention of the bride's family, whose friends usually help in some degree.

Invitations



On the next page you will find a wedding invitation that is the last word in correctness. When you come to see me, I will be able to show you a folder containing different styles in wedding invitations, and if you would like to save a little more time, our wedding advisory service will let you have the price of any number in any style and have them printed for you.

INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS

The correct wording is always the same, but naturally I have had many questions from brides who cannot use the conventional wording. Perhaps the bride's mother has married again, or an elder sister is giving the reception, or again, you may wish to invite only a small number of intimate friends to the breakfast, while others will be invited to dance later at 8 o'clock.

If you have a problem of your own, I am sure that I will be able to set your mind at rest in a minute or two. Of course, both the clergyman and his wife should be asked to the reception even if you do not know them very well.

The wedding invitations should be printed in silver, and you must see that they are sent out a full month before the wedding. Your family is responsible for the cost of the wedding invitations, sending them out and checking the lists later.

If the bride's parents are not living, the invitations are sent out in the name of the person from whose house she is to be married. A widow should send out invitations in her parents' name if married from their home, and in her own name if married from her own home.

When ordering the invitations, it is quite usual to provide small white boxes for the distribution of the wedding cake. These save a great deal of trouble at the reception, and may be mailed later to friends who were not present. Most stationers provide silver-printed cards to send out with these.

The folder I have to show you should help you in deciding, as you will be able to see just what it would cost to have the sort of invitations you are wanting—a silver edging, a silver motif on the envelope, or a double-fold invitation in good hand-made white paper, or perhaps your initials with those of the bride-groom printed in silver, or the combination of the invitation and envelope in one.

And one word of general advice about your invitations; when you and the bridegroom's family are making out the lists, don't forget that family quarrels should all be forgotten at this time; deliberate omissions may well cause bitter words in the near future. Also, invitation cards should all be sent out on the same day, to avoid the possible reproach of having asked some people before others.

NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF THE WEDDING

If you are having a big wedding and would like a journalist to attend, it is correct to send a formal invitation; the same applies to press photography. Manton's Wedding Advisory Service will be glad to attend to the writing up and insertion of the Wedding account.

A FACSIMILE INVITATION
(To be printed in Silver)

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Anderson

request the pleasure of the Company of

at the Marriage of their Daughter

Patricia

with

Mr. John E. Bannerman

at St. Hilary's Church of England,
John Street, Kew

on Wednesday, 20th October, 1948, at 2 p.m.

and afterwards at

Trenton Court, Alexandra Avenue

"Berkeley"
Stockwell Street,
Kew, S.4

R.S.B.P.
1st October



What Should the Bridegroom Wear?

Or, perhaps, we should say, "What should the men wear?" Because the best man, the groomsman, the ushers and the bride's escort should be dressed exactly like the bridegroom.

The correct dressing for the men at a formal daytime wedding is, of course, a morning coat in black or dark grey material, with an outside breast pocket just showing a corner of white handkerchief. The vest is of the same material, and the trousers of striped worsted or cashmere. The shirt is white and the collar white dress with a medium point. Although an ordinary knot tie may be worn with this, the smartest cravat is the four-in-hand, which has wide, crossed ends, and is usually held in place with a plain centre pin. The shoes and socks are black, the gloves white or grey; white or grey spats may be worn, and a silk hat.

For an informal daytime wedding, the bridegroom and other central figures may wear ordinary lounge suits of dark blue or grey with single-breasted fastening. White shirt and white linen collar are worn and the tie is usually in a medium grey. Black shoes and socks of a quiet toning complete the ensemble. Grey gloves may also be worn. If you are being married in the late afternoon and the breakfast will continue after six o'clock the strictest etiquette says that full evening dress should be worn by all the men in the wedding party, that is—dress coat with tails and outside vest pocket showing a white handkerchief, the white dress vest, single or double-breasted, and the black dress trousers braided down the sides. A dress shirt, a white tie worn with peaks outside the collar, black silk socks and black pumps are the correct accessories. Jewellery should not be worn.

THE QUESTION OF DINNER SUITS

But in Australia we are not always so strict over the matter of formal evening dress, and we find many wedding parties in dinner suits, worn, of course, with a black tie, which should be tied by hand if you want to be quite correct.

The men may wear button-holes at any time of the day, and the usual choice is a sprig of orange blossom or a small white flower, such as the gardenia or carnation.

Hundreds of problems have been brought to me, and I think, perhaps, most of them have been solved by what I have written above. But I know that there is always an individual problem which cannot be answered by any book, and if you are not quite sure what to do, remember that this will be one question you have to ask me.

If you are having Ushers

They are usually chosen from brothers, cousins or young men friends. The ushers arrange with the best man and the verger (after consulting the lists of acceptances to see how many guests are expected) so that each has charge of several pews. The bride's family and friends are seated on the left side of the church, the bridegroom's on the right. Nearest relatives are placed in the front pews. Each usher should have a written list of the guests for whom he will be responsible; he should stand at the door to receive their tickets, or if there are no tickets and he does not know them by sight, he should ask their names and show them to their places. If you have ushers they are also responsible for seeing that the cars are ready to convey the party from the church.

Your Wedding Frock



You have an endless range of lovely fabrics for your wedding gown. Which are you going to choose? It is best to decide when you select the style of your wedding gown.

First of all—perhaps it would be best to decide which of these materials will not be particularly suitable for you. Any shining material has a tendency to emphasise extra thinness or plumpness. Patterned and flowered materials may have a far from slenderising effect., and brocade with its stiff folds, also looks best on a really slim figure. Remember, when you are choosing your frock, that lace is softening and drapes beautifully; that lace is becoming a fashion highlight, and that lace may be combined in your wedding gown with satin, taffeta, chiffon or net in many charming ways. Perhaps you have always thought of being married in satin, but you are not quite sure whether you will look your best in it; try lace over satin, you may find that the pearly gleam of the satin under a softening veil of lace is just what you are needing. Fragile stiffened lace in ivory or deep cream or rose magnolia over a matching satin slip always has a slenderising effect, and if you are a little worried about your waistline, I would like to show you how slenderness may be achieved by an empire bodice above a high-cut, beltless skirt.

ROMANTIC SHEERS

For a really romantic wedding—particularly a Spring or Summer wedding—there is nothing like sheer chiffon or organdie, but you must be careful to see that your headdress is just right and that the bridesmaids make a perfect background for you. Or you may surround yourself with masses of foaming net over the silky rustle of taffeta. Let me give you an idea of the sort of fabric and the type of design that will bring out all your most attractive qualities on this day of all days. It is a problem, I know, and because I have helped so many brides in this way I will be able to explain to you what you yourself need.

A tall, dark, stately girl may even surprise herself when she sees the effect of a sheath of silver lame; and another girl who is small and quiet with rather straightish hair might blossom with all the charm of an old-world picture in a full-skirted gown of moire taffeta. Crinolines, also, with their skirts looped up with flowers are making fashion history this season. Your height and your figure, your colouring, the way you do your hair, the subtle differences in the way you walk and talk—these are all important to me when you come to discuss your wedding frock.

BEWARE OF MISTAKES

Now a word or two to save you making mistakes. If you are thinking of lame or any metal fabric, be prepared to have a really good one; all these gold and silver materials tend to look tinselly in strong light if you economise on the price. Don't have too many frills and furbelows on your wedding dress unless you are really going in for a "picture" wedding; a church is a rather severe setting, and at the altar we always find that classical and simple dressing looks best—particularly for the central figure—the bride.

YOUR OWN IDEA

And even now, I have only been able to say a quarter of what I wanted to say about your wedding frock. Perhaps, if you live too far away to come and see me yourself, you could write and ask me all you would like to know. If you would like ideas for the wedding frock, tell me all you can about your appearance, what you feel you can spend and what sort of a wedding you are having. Don't forget to tell me if there is something you have always longed to wear, and we will see how we can make your idea fit in with all the other requirements.

BEAUTY IN LINE

One of the greatest comforts of all is to know that your new foundation garment is going to make many things possible. Just consider the word "foundation"; it means that the garment you choose is going to be the very basis of your beauty, and unless it is chosen with expert care all your well-laid schemes may go awry and your lovely frock only look half as effective. Your wedding is the time to treat yourself to a really good foundation garment—fitted to bring out all that is best in your figure and smooth away the faults it should.

I am mentioning this in the section on your wedding gown because it is so vitally important. Every figure can be made a better figure if it is properly controlled; it is not a question of size, it is a question of moulding the lines into the correct proportion. Especially if you are wearing a close-fitting frock you may need some advice on these matters, and I think that you may want to know something about this new defined waistline that is so flattering to us all. A clever uplift brassiere will add much to the beauty of your figure, too—and remember that as you stand at the altar, the centre of attraction for every eye in the church, the beauty of line is very, very important

MORE INFORMAL

I think that every girl should be married in bridal attire, for the picture of a girl in her wedding dress veiled in a soft cloud of tulle has an unforgettable beauty. I should be sad indeed if you told me that you had decided "not to be a bride."

But I know that sometimes it is impossible, and so, in this talk about wedding attire, I want to say something about informal weddings, too. Please don't choose too deep a colour if you are being married in dinner or afternoon dress; if I were you I should choose a pastel shade that has always suited you well and build up ideas around it. A dinner frock may be turned into a useful evening frock if you don't feel you need an ankle-length long-sleeved dress, and there are various ways of having a frock like this designed. Then a full-length afternoon frock made on simple lines and with a fairly high neckline may later be shortened to add to your honeymoon wardrobe for daytime. You might wear one of the new short circular veils with a dinner gown; with an afternoon frock you could wear either a wide-brimmed felt or large stitched hat, a top-piece crowned with flowers, a small toque or any type of cocktail cap that suits you.

I should like to suggest some new ways of carrying and wearing your flowers, and when you tell me just what you have in mind, I will be able to advise you about gloves and a bag.

Of course, if you are having a very quiet wedding or rushing straight away on a boat or train, you may decide to be married in a travelling suit or ensemble. This is when it would be nice to have a lovely fur with a spray of white gardenias nestling at the throat or a few sprigs of sweet-scented lily of the valley. It doesn't matter what you decide on—you must be sure your accessories are absolutely perfect.

Please let me ask you again to be married as a bride if you can. Together—if you will let me help—we can make your wedding day something that will remain in your heart as the loveliest memory you possess; it is something the bridegroom would like to remember, too.

New Ways with Flowers



It is safe to say that for the simple, effective wedding of today, success lies in the choice of the flowers you carry against the lovely background of the dresses. If possible, frocks and flowers should be planned together.

When you come to see me I will be able to give you full details about the flowers that will be in bloom on the date of your wedding—or perhaps we should say—the flowers that should be in bloom, for sometimes rain, frost, wind or dry weather comes just at the wrong moment and plans for flowers must be changed in a hurry. The wedding advisory service has often had to think of an alternative for roses or camellias or water lilies that either would not come out or would not stay out according to the calendar.

THE COST OF FLOWERS

Unless you are willing to pay hothouse prices, the first thing to consider when you are planning your wedding flowers is the time of the year. People make strange

requests to florists for out of season decorations, and it must be remembered that such flowers as lily of the valley, orchids, gardenias and cyclamen, which can be forced to bloom out of season, command far higher prices than the natural flowers of the season.

What is the usual cost of the bridal bouquet? I should say that the average cost is somewhere between fifteen shillings and two guineas, but beautiful wedding bouquets are obtainable in the city and suburbs from twelve and six, and of course, looking on the other side of the picture—the bride's flowers often cost from three guineas to five guineas.

Most likely you have definite plans about your flowers, and I will be able to help you in deciding which type of wedding bouquet would set your frock off to best advantage, at the same time giving you an idea of what such a bouquet should cost. But most brides are not quite sure about the flowers that will be in season, and you will probably want to ask me whether your favourite flowers will be blooming in time for the wedding. I only wish that we had room for a complete flower calendar in this book, but I would like to meet you, too, and these particular problems really deserve to be talked over in private.

BOUQUETS ARE SIMPLE

Flowers for each bridesmaid usually cost from 7/6 to 30/-, and there are many new ideas for arranging them in harmony with the new frocks. In general, we may say that modern wedding bouquets are smaller, more compact and simpler in their beauty than the ones our mothers carried. Less fern is used—sometimes a few pale sprays of maiden hair, very rarely asparagus fern—and more attention is paid to accentuate the frock, a subtle underlining of the beauty of line and fabric. Every wedding gown is different, and each requires its special type of bouquet. For one, a tall sheaf of exquisite gladioli; for another, a sheaf of rose-tinted waterlilies held flat along the hand and arm. Frangipani trailing—but not carelessly as it used to—against a classical frock of magnolia satin, and blended as only a modern florist can blend it, with golden roses. No longer a formless "shower" of flowers and fern, each flower in the bride's and bridesmaids' bouquets is wired in its separate place—transparent azaleas mixed with slim stalks of lily of the valley, tulips and roses with a touch of pale blue hyacinth, gorgeous chrysanthemums tipped with pink, tiny old-fashioned posies of rosebuds and forget-me-nots held high at the neckline. Fiery roses open full against a frock of pale green taffetas. Gerberas together in a riot of pink and red and gold and apricot. Single white camellias alone with their dark green leaves. Delphiniums in every blue imaginable ringed with green hydrangea, ringed again with multi-coloured sweet peas.

YOU MAY BE ORIGINAL

Beautiful effects may be created by having your flowers pinned or sewn on to the gown as a corsage and carrying a tiny replica in your hand. Wedding flowers are always different and always individual—seven gardenias in a hand-spray; two perfect orchids falling from a prayer book; a trail of exotic madonna lilies inside the curve of a cowl neckline; a bride in organdie with La France roses clustering on her hat; a lei of Spring flowers carried over the arm; a bride in chiffon with a posy of carnations at her waist. I can only tell you again how pleased I would be to help you with your own wedding bouquets. Let us talk over ideas and plan this important part of your wedding together.

Your Crowning Glory

Our grandmothers who walked down the aisle with faces discreetly veiled would be surprised to see that this sweet old fashion has now become one of the smartest coiffures for the modern bride. The veil has a short front section falling just clear of your bouquet. As you walk down the aisle on your husband's arm, your face will be revealed for the first time during the ceremony.

YOU NEED A SPECIAL VEIL

I should like to try many different styles against your hair and face when you can spare a few minutes; I think I will know in an instant which type of veil will suit you best. A bride's veil should be her crowning glory, very soft and feminine—every line of it designed to heighten her charm.

There are so many things to consider. Are you a little taller or shorter than you should be? Would a high headdress make you look "umpy"? Or would it make the bridegroom look short beside you? These are important questions when you are deciding about your veil, and if I were helping you, I should want to ask all about the fabric and colour of your wedding gown and how you will have it made. Satin or lace? Chiffon or lame? White, ivory or magnolia? You see, quite a different type of headdress would be necessary in each case, and, while with one frock you could wear the new floating circular veil of three-quarter length, with another, perhaps, you would need the long classical lines of a train. If you were to plan your frock in one of the lovely stiffened laces I should advise only the filmiest veiling of tulle for you—perhaps even two yards less than we would use for a frock of satin.

PRIMROSES DECIDE THE MATTER

Just imagine you have come to me and asked me to plan a Spring wedding your friends will never forget. You want to look like the spirit of Spring, and so we discuss every possibility of flowers and bridesmaids' frocks. Primroses decide the matter. Bridesmaids in primrose organdie with sheaves of daffodils, and yourself in a foaming frock of stiffened chiffon—a creamy shade to match your bouquet of primroses and freezias. Then your veil—stiffened net with a faint touch of magnolia—standing out round your head and shoulders like a cloud and reaching only to the hips in the new way. Perhaps, you will have your veil caught with a trail of orange blossom buds set at the base of a halo pleating of net. Can you see it?

Or are you feeling just a little unconventional about your wedding? Would you like to wear blue as pale as a whisper—tulle for your frock and veil, bridesmaids in blossom white with shepherdess hats of deeper blue and armfuls of peach blossom.

I have just looked back over what I have written about your veil, and I find that I have not been able to discuss your headdress without continual reference to the frock you wear it with. It is really essential that both should be planned together.

HISTORY MAKES HEADDRESSES

And I can see, too, that there will not be room for many of the ideas I wanted to give you—the new arrangements of orange blossom and buds, the latest idea of the "top-knot" and how it should be carried out, and then, the variety of "period" headdresses that come to us from every country in the world.

Your veil may drift from a Juliet cap or a Dutch halo or a Medici twist of pearls and satin. It may be pointed up with a crown of stones or held flat to your head with a rope of blossom buds. Or, when you ask me with rather a puzzled look in your eyes, "But which would be best for me?"—I may find that you should have a close-fitting cap of velvet flowers set far back on your head and holding a stand-out veil of stiffened net. There are wreaths of miniature arum lilies, lace veils worn like Spanish mantillas, Mary Queen of Scots caps with that little heart-shaped peak—veils and veils and veils, each one for a special type of person. And if you are being married in an afternoon frock, it may be a small stitched halo hat of taffeta, a twist of velvet; a wide-brimmed hat of georgette, straw or feather-weight felt to match your chosen colour.

Do not forget the new Edwardian headdress . . . a riot of flowers and feathers, even berries, for bridesmaids, with little velvet "fly away" bows, which must be worn with the Edwardian coiffure.

It is surprising that these lovely headdresses add very little to the cost of the bridal outfit if they are planned carefully.

PLAN AHEAD

Even six months before the wedding is not too early to think about your veil, and if you would like my help about the cost of the tulle and headdresses, I would like you to come and see me as soon as you can and we will discuss how you can have exactly what you want, in the most economical way. Manton's wedding advisory service is making many friends; for, besides giving free advice on any question connected with a wedding, part of the daily work is to plan a bride's allowance of money so that it goes as far as possible.

BRIDESMAIDS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Now, the bridesmaids. One of the most popular headdresses just now is the short eye-veil of tulle or stiffened net to match the frock. It may be caught with a trail of silver leaves, a cluster of flowers to match the bouquets or a twist of material, or again it may be finished with a halo of curled ostrich, pearls or brilliant stones. Tulle may be pleated into little Juliet caps or stiffened into flower-crowned picture hats. Flowers again may make a flat shepherdess hat; sometimes tiny blooms are clustered all over a Mary Queen of Scots' headdress.

I should certainly advise you to have your own and the bridesmaids' headdresses safely fixed before the wedding day, so that nothing can possibly go wrong. Real flowers are often unsatisfactory being difficult to adjust and likely to wilt in the warm atmosphere of a crowded room while artificial flowers, which are so beautifully made nowadays, have none of these disadvantages.

AND THE PRACTICAL DETAILS

For a bridal veil of lace or Brussels net, three or four yards of tulle would be required to make an effective mounting, and if you are borrowing one of these precious possessions it is quite likely that you will need my help in having it rearranged to suit you. This can be done without cutting the fabric, so don't worry too much about an old-fashioned headdress until you have talked to me about it. If the veil is very old and showing signs of tearing away it may be necessary to strengthen it with new tulle and remove the strain from the cap section. Tulle is obtainable in white, ivory, egg shell, pale blue, and pastel shades, and it should be remembered that bridal tulle is 108 inches wide. So you will see that a new wedding veil will cost from two to three guineas, according to whether you want plenty of tulle or just sufficient, and whether the tulle itself is of special fineness, and also whether you wish to add the cost of an over-veil of lace. This will all depend on your own feeling, and, while one bride likes to save money for the trousseau, another desires the best of everything for the great day of all days when she will appear more beautiful than ever before at the altar.

Building Up Your Trousseau



Your trousseau is one of the most difficult things to talk to you about. So much depends on what you personally like in the way of underthings, what you have already gathered together, and where you are intending to live. If you are going to the tropics there would be nothing better for the greater part of the trousseau than sheer handkerchief linen which launders so crisply and feels so cool. And of this you would need a plentiful supply.

MYSTERIOUSLY FEMININE

But most of us do not go far away when we marry, and the ordinary trousseau will consist of one or two luxurious sets, some very extravagant nightgowns, several under-sets for every day, two warm dressing jackets, three sets of woollens, and one or two dressing gowns. This list may be elaborated in any way you like, but these are the essentials to consider when you are getting your trousseau of underwear together.

Satin, crepe de chine, and triple nimon make the loveliest undersets. With their delicately-shirred yokes, pin-tucks, appliqued flowers and inlets of lace or net, these "luxury" sets are irresistible to the feminine heart; for once you may be tempted to forget expense and have two or three undersets such as you have always desired. There will be no time in your life when you want to feel more feminine and attractive, and there is nothing like really lovely underwear to give a woman this mysteriously feminine air. Your wedding set will, of course, be in white, ivory or magnolia to match the bridal gown, and its lace should be either the same shade or a very pale ecru, for it is surprising how deep-coloured laces show through.

SETS FOR EVERY DAY

For everyday underwear, there are some beautifully tailored garments in knitted milanese which deserve your attention—nicks and vests, slips and all-in-ones, nightgowns and pyjamas, trimmed with exquisite laces and graded to fit every measurement. Then there are nightgowns and undersets in fine voile and in flowered marquisette—a material like georgette with a narrow, self-stripe and scattered flowers giving an old-world effect; you will find underwear of this type inexpensive and it will keep its dainty freshness after many launderings. Luxor silks are economical and you might easily make them the basis of your trousseau for they conceal a great deal of service behind a sheer and crisp appearance.

BE SURE YOU KNOW

Ever since your engagement I suppose you have been buying and making lovely underwear for your trousseau, but I would like you to see me before you add any more to your stock; in talking together I will be able to tell you such a lot about the latest ideas for the bride—perhaps many things neither you nor your friends have heard about. There are some new satin brocades that are very beautiful, self-striped satin for pyjamas, new contrasts in lace, and dozens of ways of making your trousseau more glamorous. To your special "treasures" you should add four or five sets of underwear for every day, and perhaps one or two of the all-in-one garments that are so cool and comfortable for Summer wear as they combine scantees with a well-cut uplift brassiere—all you need under a light frock.

Have plenty of incidental nighties—not necessarily matched with your sets—and plenty of stockings both fine and serviceable. Choose your stockings in the same colour—a shade a little deeper than your own skin—and you will get double wear from them by the elimination of wasted "odd stockings." Remember that the copper shades in stockings have become much quieter now and the more natural skin-tones are with us again.

In making things for your trousseau see that the material you are using is worth all the time you are putting in to it; it is better to make up a good-quality spun silk than an inferior crepe de chine or satin. Good washing satin should cost about three or four shillings a yard, other reliable silks being obtainable for as little as 1/11. Whatever you choose let it be the best of its kind, for only then can you be sure that it will save expenditure later on.

MAKING YOUR OWN

Try combining the new ecru lace with white, sunbrown with an amber shade of silk, peach-coloured lace with rose or apricot. Most of the latest underwear is cut on the cross to ensure good fit, and, although this means buying a little extra material, it is by far the best way to make everything. The bias cut moulds the garment to every line of the figure and gives you the smooth line that is so necessary under modern frocks. Again I should be pleased to advise you about the amount of material needed for a complete under-set, a slip, or a nightgown. Shoulder straps should be made of strong ribbon, or a narrow rouleau of the material cut on the straight (after machining you can pull the rouleau right side out by attaching a small gold safety pin to one end and drawing it through).

Dainty medallions and motifs of lace are not expensive and will add greatly to the appearance of your hand-made underwear. If you want to embroider, it is a popular idea for a bride to work her new initials on everything in the trousseau.

WOOLLENS AND DRESSING GOWNS

Are you going to be a Summer bride? Then don't forget that cold weather must come sooner or later, and be sure you are prepared with several sets of cosy woollen underwear. Today's smart and well-cut woollens are not even distant cousins to the old-fashioned and bulky "woollies" of yesterday. You will find your woollen underwear an endless comfort and delight. Woollen pyjamas are made in fascinating designs and colours now—clear apple green in an unusual pineapple stitch, shell-pink knitted in a feathery lace stitch with a little bed jacket to match—and not nearly as expensive as you might imagine! For your dressing gown you will probably want to pay between 30/- and 3 guineas, according to the amount you feel justified in spending. Padded crepe de chine with the softest quilting, delicious satin, warm material with a satin trim, rich corded velvet stripes and tartans and many other lovely designs await you when you go to choose this important item of your wedding wardrobe, and, perhaps, if you have never treated yourself to a really lovely dressing gown before, you will get a special thrill out of its selection. Feather or fur-trimmed slippers to match are part of the ensemble, and, however inconsequential, they should have good strong leather soles to see you through a year or two. Flowered silks, linens and many other materials make lovely Summer dressing gowns for inclusion in the trousseau; the material need not cost more than a few shillings a yard.

Everyone will want to see your trousseau, and indeed this is part of the fun of getting married. But many a bride could wish that all her friends would come at once, for, however much she likes her things to be admired, she does not like the continual passing from hand to hand. Here is a way to "keep the bloom" on the lovely things in your bridal box; have each garment wrapped in transparent cellophane, showing the design of the prettiest part. If you do this it is quite probable that people will not ask you to unwrap them, and that you will not have all the extra trouble of pressing and folding them again during the rush of packing.

THE HONEYMOON WARDROBE

Actually, everything you buy to take away on your honeymoon is part of the trousseau. Without being too definite on the subject—for all tastes and requirements are different—I propose to give you some idea of the absolute essentials so that you will have a clear conception of money that must be allotted before you think of extras.

Here are the items a bride usually chooses first of all; her going away outfit with its accessories—the hat, bag, shoes and gloves; a well-cut top coat—and here is your chance to have exactly what you have always wanted; one new evening frock, and a frock you will be able to wear for informal parties, an evening coat or wrap—if you are economising have it in velvet so that it will do duty all the year round, or if you want to create a sensation have a long, slim coat of taffeta or brocade, net or lace, and if you won't be needing an evening

coat at all—put the money into a frock that will be suitable for entertaining at home. Now, besides these more important items you may need a travelling coat of tweed, a light Summer coat to wear over frocks in the street, or a slim-fitting tailor-made of wool georgette; naturally your choice will depend on whether you are going to live in town or in the country and on the way you are intending to spend your leisure.

I will say something more about your "going away" outfit later, but with regard to the wedding frock, there are many ways of designing this so that it may be transformed into a new evening or dinner gown after the wedding.

IDEAS FOR SAVING

For daytime besides the "going away" frock or suit you will need one or two street and tea-time frocks—in Winter they would be in light woollen or knitted fabrics, in summer just the usual silks and cottons. If you are choosing a one-piece frock for the wedding day you might include a well-tailored two-piece suit in your honeymoon wardrobe, and you will find this indispensable all the year round. Ensembles comprising a full-length or shorter coat and matching frock are well worth considering. But whatever you are choosing for "going away" on the day, be sure it is suitable for the journey you are to take. A slim, tailored suit with a fur and extremely smart accessories—this, in my opinion, is the ideal outfit for the bride's "going away."

Clothes and accessories should be as inconspicuous as possible if you are trying to economise—especially such things as coats and suits which are going to last for several years. Try and arrange your new wardrobe so that accessories will be interchangeable choosing either navy, brown or black as the basic colour of your scheme, and building up your colours on this sure foundation. It is really difficult to talk to you on general lines about honeymoon clothes, since every bride is different in her appearance, her tastes, interests and sporting inclinations.

IT PAYS TO BE CAREFUL

I am only able to give you this very brief outline and I know that you will bring your special problems and questions to me personally in the near future. Just as the planning of a wedding reception requires experience, so it is with a honeymoon wardrobe; everything you buy must be part of the whole picture and every penny must be made to do its full duty.

Just one word more about your clothes for the honeymoon. See that your luggage contains a few warm clothes even if you are being married in the height of Summer and take with you at least one pair of strong walking shoes with flat heels. A pull-on felt hat will also be useful.

Sports clothes, tennis, golf, beach or riding kit will also form part of your stock according to the way you intend to spend your trip. If it's to be a Summer holiday at the beach—take plenty of simple washing frocks, and—just before you press down the lid of your new trunk—slip in a cool crisp evening frock of cotton.



A Word about the Bridesmaids

Your bridesmaids should be chosen from your own and the bridegroom's sisters, your near relations and closest friends. Remembering that on this occasion sisters come even before friends, and that it is a matter of etiquette for the bride to include one of the bridegroom's relations if she can. The chief bridesmaid is usually an unmarried sister of the bride; if she is already married she will be called the matron of honour. Four to six maids are the usual retinue, but you may have from one to twelve attendants together with flower girls and pages; and in this choice your decision must not be questioned.

WHAT ARE THEIR DUTIES

If there is only one bridesmaid, it might be more convenient for her to accompany yourself and your father to the church, but usually the bridesmaids go to the church a few minutes before the bride and there await her in the porch. It is the duty of the chief bridesmaid to see that the bride's veil and train are properly adjusted before she enters the church, and if there are any small attendants, she must tell them what they have to do. Flower girls often walk in front of the bride, or, if one is taller than the other, the smaller may go in front and the taller follow the bride. If there is a train to be carried, the chief bridesmaid follows the trainbearers down the aisle and the other maids fall into pairs behind her. At the altar, the chief bridesmaid stands a little behind the bride and to the left ready to take her flowers at the right moment.

At the reception the chief bridesmaid resumes her role of "second" to the bride, and they follow the couple to the vestry. Actually the other bridesmaids should remain standing in the aisle, but this little point of etiquette is not always observed in the excitement of the moment. Bride and groom are followed down the aisle by their attendants, and, when they reach the church door, if there are no groomsmen to partner the other bridesmaids, the best man must escort them all to the reception.

"SECOND" TO THE BRIDE

At the reception the chief bridesmaid resumes her role of "second" to the bride, helping to distribute the wedding cake and entertain the guests. Her last official duty is help the bride change into her going-away dress.

But your chief bridesmaid must not think that her part is played at the wedding alone. True, she generally helps the bride to dress and keeps her company on the morning of the wedding, but for many weeks before the actual day she must be ready to help the bride in every way she can. She is really the bride's maid, and there will be lots of little duties for her in connection with packing the trousseau and assisting at pre-wedding parties. The bride will want her to undertake responsibility for the bouquets and will most likely find her a great help in connection with the reception. This is the time when the chief bridesmaid puts aside all her own considerations, and, if you who are reading this now have been chosen for this privileged role, I want to make a special request that you will try to relieve the bride of all possible worry. Do all you can for her, and to you will go a great deal of the credit for a happy wedding day and a lovely bride. Now, the next is for your own as well as the bride's attention.

A BACKGROUND FOR THE BRIDAL GOWN

When you are planning the scheme of the wedding together, remember that in every way you are secondary to the bride on this occasion. On one important point I am sure all the bridesmaids will be emphatic—their frocks must not on any account eclipse the wedding gown. Everyone's ideas can be blended in such a way that all are satisfied, and I have often talked with a bride and her maids until we have decided on a scheme which will ensure that everyone looks charming while the effect is of one central figure standing out against a lovely background.

The bride is always just as anxious to see that her choice fits in with that of her maids, and she must be sure, when she makes the final decision, that the frock will be suitable for use afterwards as an afternoon dress or evening gown, or that it could easily be converted to such use.

Many brides-to-be have asked me whether they are responsible for the cost of the bridesmaids' outfits. This is not so, unless you are having a definite "picture" wedding and wish to include frocks that could not be worn afterwards. In that case you might offer to share the cost, I think, or make a gift of some accessory that will be worn with the ensemble.

SO MANY POSSIBILITIES

The bridesmaids' frocks may be planned in harmony with your own, or they may make a lovely contrasting background against which the wedding frock will stand out. You may achieve this contrast by using one or several colours, or again by varying the shades of the same colour. The design of the frocks must be harmoniously uniform, but sometimes slight variations in detail will add an unusual touch; for instance—two frocks might have sashes finished at the back with a butterfly bow and long trailing ends while the other two have three tiers of flares gradually widening toward the hem.

Sheer white, I think, shows at its best against delphinium blues, pale lavender and shades with a bluish undertone. Magnolia, with its hint of gold, looks even richer against shades with the same golden undertone—turquoise blue, apricot, primrose, gold flame or yellow-green. Ivory-white satin or lace calls for the true pastel shades of rose, apple green, maize colour and misty blue, and you may use all these shades together if you have chosen the exact harmonising tones.

The all-white or all-magnolia wedding is most effective when it is carried out in two contrasting fabrics—chiffon and satin, georgette and net, cobweb lace and taffeta, heavy lace and cloque matelasse.

There is the all-lace wedding in contrasting shades; the magnificent all-gold or all-silver wedding; the wedding with a bride in faint pearl-pink and bridesmaids in three shades of rose, and the wedding in glimmering moonlight blue and green, and oyster-shell. And even then I have only been able to give you a suggestion of the possibilities. If you are having your frock on simple lines you might make a contrast by a soft and rather fluffy style for the bridesmaids, but, if your wedding gown is made in a material such as chiffon or lace the bridesmaids would look best in simple frocks. The only way, as I have said before is to talk to you personally about it; let me see your, bridesmaids and give you suggestions, and then, from all the ideas together, we can build up your wedding with a practical eye to the money side of the question.

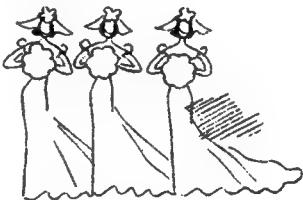
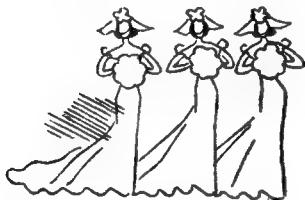
HATS OR FLOWERS?

Is it more correct for bridesmaids to wear hats than flowers in church? It is the rule of most churches nowadays that some head-covering be worn, but the rule is liberally interpreted, and there are many attractive headdresses for the bridesmaids which are both sufficiently covering and beautiful to wear. Often only a slight wreath or cluster of flowers is worn, but it must be remembered that some churches are stricter than others on this point. All veils, hats and caps I have described on page 15 in the section on bridesmaids' headdresses are accepted for wear in any church.

SMALL ATTENDANTS

When flower-girls and pages are chosen to carry the bride's train, or, perhaps, just to give an additional picturesque touch to the proceedings, they must walk immediately before or after the bride. Little girls look very attractive in slim-fitting frocks with puffed sleeves and skirts generously frilled around the hem, a charming style named after Kate Greenaway. These frocks are made to touch the ground, but if they are simple in design, they may be shortened after the wedding and worn as party dresses. Pages are often dressed in the fashion of little Lord Fauntleroy, or in period costumes recalling Tudor or Jacobean days, in miniature hunt dress; or, if appropriate—there being some Scottish blood in either of the families—in tartan and kilt.

If you want to add a touch of originality—give your flower-girls baskets with roseleaves hidden underneath the flowers, and as you step from the church porch with your husband, they scatter the petals in your path. If they are carrying the train, don't risk bouquets, but have a tiny posy tied on to the wrist. Remember, a little attendant of four or five can think of only one thing at a time, and even the carrying of the train may need a rehearsal or two.



The Best Man

The best man has more to do than anybody else at the wedding. He helps with all preliminary arrangements at the church and the florist's, and it is his duty from beginning to end to relieve the bridegroom as much as possible from anxiety about details.

He will help him to dress and see that nothing is forgotten, for bridegrooms are traditionally supposed to suffer from lack of memory on this occasion. It is also traditional that the bridegroom is incapable of remembering all the details of packing and arranging the honeymoon trip; the best man will see that everything is properly packed and that street clothes for the wedding journey

are taken to the reception place, where the bridegroom will most probably be changing from dress clothes to travelling clothes. With an efficient best man in attendance, nothing can possibly go wrong. He must, of course, annex the wedding ring and keep it in his charge until the moment the bridegroom needs it at the ceremony.

RUNNING THE WEDDING

The best man escorts the bridegroom to the church and stands at his right hand throughout the service; afterwards, he offers his left arm to the chief bridesmaid and together they follow the married couple to the vestry to witness the signing of the register. He attends personally to the clergyman's fee and hands on the bridegroom's tips to the verger and chauffeur. Now, he must manage to see that the cars are ready in proper order to convey the wedding party from the church to the reception, and as soon as he has closed the door upon the departing couple, he returns to escort the bridesmaids.

At the wedding reception the best man sits on the left of the bride and places before her all telegrams and messages of congratulation. These are opened and read by him at the commencement of the breakfast. It will be his duty to respond to the toast of "The Bridesmaids," and he must keep an eye on the clock if the couple are catching a ship or train. The car must be there at the right moment, with all necessary baggage on board, and if they are leaving by ship or train; he may think it best to bring the tickets himself.

So—see that your fiance chooses his best man carefully!

And, of course, if there is no best man, the bridegroom must attend to all these matters himself.

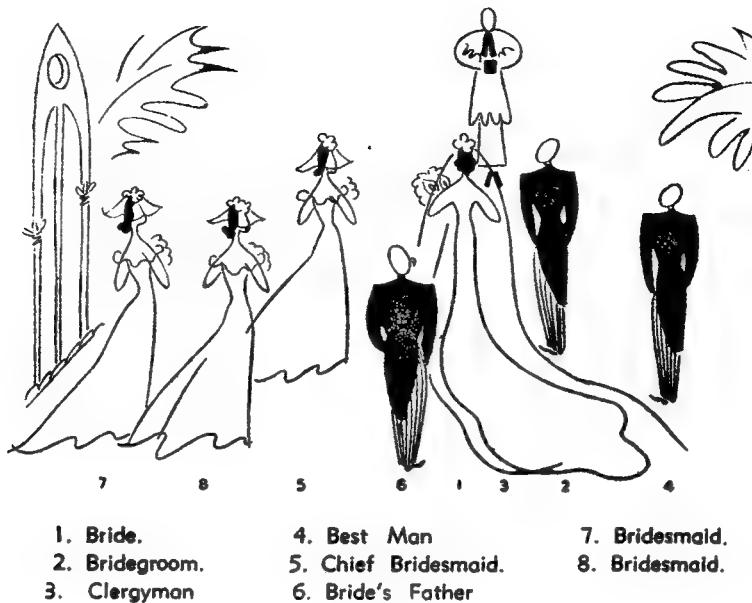
At the Church

The bride is given away by her father or the nearest male relative. Congratulations should be reserved until the bridal couple are outside the church, and confetti should not be thrown inside the building. Perhaps you may find that the church you have selected has made a rule prohibiting the use of confetti.

THE EXACT PROCEDURE

The guests arrive early, being shown to their appointed seats by the ushers. A few moments before the bride is due to arrive, the bridegroom and best man enter the church through the vestry and take their places in front of and at the right of the altar, facing it. The bridesmaids, who have awaited the bride in the church porch, must see that her train and gown are arranged before she enters the door. Holding the right arm of her escort, the bride walks up the aisle followed or preceded by her bridesmaids, and the guests stand as she appears. As the bride takes her place beside the bridegroom at the altar, the person who is giving her away falls back directly behind her, the chief bridesmaid standing slightly behind and to her left, and the other bridesmaid on the left again. Usually this is the moment when the chief bridesmaid takes the bride's

bouquet or prayer book in order to leave her free during the marriage service. There are many ways of arranging the wedding party at the altar, but certain rules are fixed; here is a table showing the usual positions of those taking part, in this case there are three bridesmaids and no groomsmen:—



- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Bride. | 4. Best Man | 7. Bridesmaid. |
| 2. Bridegroom. | 5. Chief Bridesmaid. | 8. Bridesmaid. |
| 3. Clergyman | 6. Bride's Father | |

BRIDAL PARTIES DIFFER

If there were one groomsman beside the best man, he would stand behind and to the right of the bridegroom. But it is almost impossible to lay down definite rules on the arrangements of the wedding party at the altar; every case is different. Sometimes I am asked to arrange flower girls so that they are near the bride, although the positions for the chief bridesmaid, the bride's father, and the bridegroom, of course, are absolutely fixed; or there may be six pairs of bridesmaids and groomsmen; there may be little pages, or two trainbearers, one short and one much taller. And these difficulties seem quite insurmountable when you try to worry them out for yourself, don't they? I will be glad to draw up a plan for you if you are at all worried about the best arrangement at the altar.

The clergyman will instruct you in the details of the marriage service; when the bridegroom places the ring on the book, he will take your left hand, and, with his right hand, place the ring on your fourth finger, holding it there while he repeats the vows after the clergyman.

When the ceremony is concluded, the bride, on the left arm of the groom, proceeds to the vestry. The chief bridesmaid follows, on the left arm of the best man, and parents of the happy couple leave their seats—the bride's mother joining her husband.

Usually the chief bridesmaid and the best man, provided they are over the age of 21 years, are required to sign the register. Either the wedding march

or any other suitable music you may choose is played as the couple reappear from the vestry, attended by their retinue and followed by their parents. The bride usually holds the left arm of the bridegroom, but, curiously enough, there is no definite ruling about this.

Their car is followed to the reception by the car conveying the bridesmaids and best man.

A rehearsal of the ceremony may be arranged with the clergyman if desired, and it is often wise to run through the church procedure in your own home, especially if there are to be children among the attendants.

The marriage certificate is by custom considered the property of the bride.

And Afterwards at . . .

When you have considered everything and reckoned up possible costs, you may decide to leave the whole matter of the reception in the hands of an hotel, or one of the many establishments that are specially equipped for parties. Or you may hire a hall and entrust the catering to a well-known firm.

Catering costs vary considerably, but if you would like to outline to me the type of breakfast you have in mind, I will be able to give you an idea of the cost per head. This becomes lower as the number of guests increases, and should be somewhere between 2/6 and 6/- per head according to the menu, the setting and the extras. If your reception is continuing until late evening, you will, of course, have to consider the additional cost of providing the guests with supper.

FLOWERS, WINES AND ORCHESTRAS

Many modern wedding breakfasts are taking the form of a buffet or semi-buffet service, and often I find this is by far the least expensive way of giving a reception. Then, it is well to remember that some hotels and halls make an extra charge for flowers and decorations (usually about 10/6); also, if you are having wines or other drinks, there may be a charge for the extension of license after 8 o'clock. I will be glad to give you the full details of extra charges for any reception place you may choose.

For the music, a good orchestra usually costs a pound for every member (from 8 o'clock till midnight). Certain orchestras will provide an entertainer or master of ceremonies without extra charge.

I always feel that there is something specially enjoyable about an hotel reception; everything is arranged for you to the last detail, and if you choose this setting you should have a perfect background for your great day, besides having complete ease of mind from the moment you book the date with the hotel manager. You have nothing whatever to worry about—the flowers, the wines, the music, the smooth service, all these things without the bother of arranging them are the assets of the hotel reception. Changing rooms are provided free, and often the services of an announcer are also part of the business.

Wedding luncheons, dinners and dances are always sure to be fun if a capable hotel has the programme in hand.

THE BUFFET MODERNE

Now, a little more about the menu. You may have noticed that I spoke of a semi-buffet service. This is a very modern way of celebrating your wedding, and, if you feel that your guests would enjoy an unusual party, I could talk to you about it when you come to see me. You may have a menu consisting of the usual buffet savouries, sandwiches and cakes and probably sweets and ices, too, or, with the semi-buffet, include special courses which are served to the guests by waiters from a side buffet table. The atmosphere is informal and intimate, speeches must be short, and guests may dance, sit or stand about chatting while the breakfast is served. At a buffet breakfast you may dispense with the wedding cake if you like, but it is quite in order to have the ceremony of cake-cutting just as usual. Of course, there is no room to tell you all about everything in a little book like this, but if you like the idea of a buffet for your wedding, I should be glad to arrange all the details for you after we have talked over suitable times and places.

Giving a Reception at Home



If you can give the wedding reception in your own home or garden, it will have a far more intimate and friendly atmosphere and, at the same time, can be carried out with less expense. In these days of flats and apartments we do not often enjoy the pleasure of a home reception, but if you have sufficient room I think there is no better way of celebrating the occasion of the wedding and I should certainly advise you to consider it.

THE CATERER PROVIDES

Of course it will mean a good deal of extra work for you and the family, but even if you call in the help of a caterer, a florist and a cleaner, there should be a saving in expenses when the breakfast is given at home. Unless the party is to be very small and intimate, it is best to leave all the worry of the menu to a reliable caterer and let him provide you with the extra glass, china and silverware, and the additional seating accommodation you will need. Every individual case requires separate consideration in the estimation of cost per head. Many times I have been asked to help a bride and her mother in working out just what can be done on the amount of money available, and I hope that my experience will be of use to you too. So much depends on making the best use of your home and its resources; meanwhile, the first essential will be to decide what you can afford to spend, inclusive of everything.

WINES AND BEVERAGES

Wines and other drinks will add considerably to the expenditure—perhaps even doubling the cost per head, but you could always have just a few bottles for the toasts, or drink the healths in one of the many tempting varieties of fruit cup, claret or punch. Drinks are usually served from a side buffet with the assistance of the male guests.

One particular advantage of the home reception is the facility for displaying the wedding presents. They may be set out on a large table in one of your rooms—perhaps a bedroom might be transformed for the purpose in order to save space.

The menu need not be elaborate; it usually consists of light buffet foods such as sandwiches, savouries, cakes and fruit salad or trifle. But there are many variations that make refreshments interesting.

ALL IN THE WAY YOU DO IT

Sandwiches become mysteriously appetising with fillings of sweet corn, devilled chopped kidneys, green peas, fried bacon; savouries may add many a tempting touch to the menu in the form of oyster patties, stuffed celery sticks, cheese straws, curried eggs, asparagus rolls, gherkins rolled in sausage, little cheese souffles cooked individually. Sweets may include, besides trifles, fruit salads and jellies, such "special" delicacies as orange cream, apple flummery, chocolate meringue; charlotte russe, peche Melba; chocolate logs and brandy snaps and little mince pies could be mixed among the cakes. Devilled almonds have an irresistible appeal, and luscious stuffed prunes will vanish just as quickly. Add two or three of these little extras to the wedding menu and you add that "something more" to your hospitality that makes people remember you as a hostess.

Grape fruit stuck with titbits of every variety make an attractive decoration for the wedding tables; use little tooth picks for olives and gherkins, nuts and prunes, cherries and preserved fruits, and lacquer the grape fruit to match the colour scheme of the wedding party. Lately, even the wedding cake itself has sometimes been replaced by a huge decorative pumpkin spiked with small dainties in every colour and set as the centre piece of the bridal table.

Now, I said that the menu need not be elaborate—and if you study the suggestions I have made above you will notice that none need be expensive; if the caterer cannot provide them, you might spend an hour or two the day before the wedding in your own kitchen and, without trouble, add two or three "different" touches to the wedding menu.

Meanwhile, if you do not want an elaborate breakfast there are ways of working with your caterer along these lines, too. Your bridal feast—a considerably more expensive one—may run through all the gamut of course between soup and dessert; or you may serve a three or four-course meal to the wedding party and provide lighter foods for the remainder of the guests.

MAKE IT MEMORABLE

Tables are usually arranged in the shape of a horseshoe or T, and guests are seated so that all can see the bride and groom. Even at the buffet type of breakfast which I have described on the preceding page, the guests may stand while the bridal party is seated, or everyone may stand, including the bride and groom. But if you are planning an informal buffet it must have something more than the atmosphere of a "5 o'clock" party. It is to be the most memorable occasion in at least two people's lives, and the planning of food, decorations, music and toasts should help to make it so.

In summertime a garden and marquee make the perfect setting for a wedding reception and there is no need to possess a palatial home to carry out this effect. Having a marquee outside on the lawn saves a great deal of trouble in the house and the bright colours lend a gay and festive atmosphere against which summer clothes and flowers make a brilliant scene. Wedding presents could be displayed inside in the dining room, where the guests may view them at any time before or after the breakfast. If you want your garden to look

brilliant on the day engage a nurseryman to supply potted flowers in full bloom; the flower pots are sunk underneath the earth in the garden beds—and presto! No one will guess that they have not been there since they were seedlings. There are many new ways of decorating the marquee; inside, it may be panelled with bright paper or festooned with coloured hangings; sometimes ropes and clusters of flowers decorate the sides and little low bowls of the same flowers are set on the tables. Festoons of fairy lights may be hired to add glamour to the garden after dark—a matter your caterer might attend to.

For the question of service—you will, of course, need a number of extra waiters or waitresses to serve the guests at the breakfast, and again, you may safely leave this to the caterer who has had years of experience in knowing just what he needs at a home reception, and just how to dovetail in with your own arrangements.



The Wedding Cake

Your wedding cake will be a most important feature of the breakfast and the usual thing is to have it made by a special expert or to let your caterer arrange this for you.

Some of the most beautiful of modern wedding cakes are not expensive, and there need be no more than one or two tiers if you wish to reduce the cost. Caterers are wonderfully clever in copying your own wedding flowers in delicate tints for the top decoration; certain caterers will hire this special top decoration for you or even make no charge at all for it.

The average cost of a nice wedding cake is from 2 guineas upwards, but it is quite possible to make your own cake and have the decorations done for a little over a pound.

FAIRY STORIES IN ICING

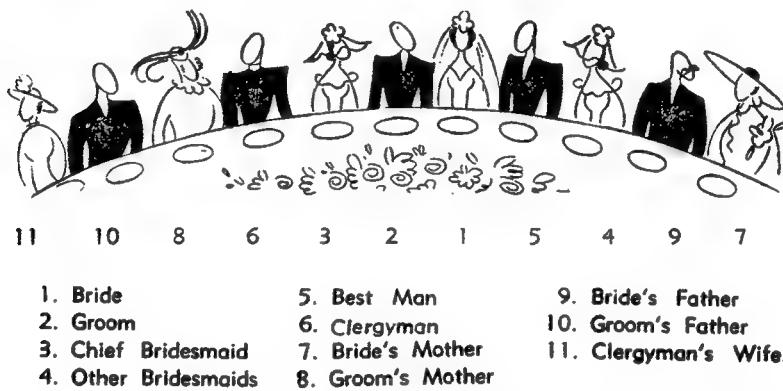
No decoration is too elaborate for the wedding cake if you really want to create a sensation—ships, aeroplanes, fairy stories, houses, gardens and many other intricacies are copied in icing for the centre-piece of the bridal table. One cake has a perfect representation of a great organ, another shows the sleeping beauty in a moated castle, another is a miniature of the bride and her maids carried out in subtle colours.

This sort of wedding cake is really a luxury; it might cost almost anything and it will surely make a difference to the expenses of the breakfast.

Looking on the other side, you might follow the suggestion I have made above, call in a party of friends a week or two before the wedding, and have an amusing afternoon creating your own wedding cake.

What Happens at the Reception

Bride and groom leave the church first, and the rest follow in the usual order—bridesmaids, bride's parents, bridegroom's parents, relations, chief guests, and so on. If the bridal party is not going direct to the photographer's, your mother will have to hurry back to the house, or wherever you are having the reception, to be in time to receive the first arrivals. She usually stands with the groom's mother beside her and you and your husband may either take up a position across the room or group yourselves beside the hostesses with the best man and the chief bridesmaid. As the guests arrive they will greet your mother first, and then pass on to congratulate you and the groom; then, if you are having a "sit-down" breakfast, they will immediately find their places at the table. The bridal table is usually placed at right angles to the others, and the wedding party is seated along the top side facing the guests. Imagine you are already seated at the bridal table and you will understand from the diagram how the party should be arranged:—



Now all bridal parties are not as symmetrical as this one; you may have five bridesmaids and five men to support the groom, or you may have five bridesmaids without partners, or four flower girls and one bridesmaid. Then many brides wish to have a special friend or relation also at the bridal table, or the clergyman may not be able to come—really there are just hundreds of different problems about arranging the bridal table, and most likely even now I have not mentioned yours. Don't worry about it! You know, brides have told me often that the whole family are racking their brains about the seating of the wedding party and meals are becoming a perfect trial! Then they just happen to come and see me about something else, and in a few minutes we have drawn a sketch of the bridal table with everyone in a suitable place, and of course when our wedding advisory service is arranging so many receptions, this is just part of the day's work.

DRINKING THE HEALTHS

Then, the order of the toasts. Letters come in from clients with all sorts of questions about them—and again, every problem must be solved differently. The general rule is that the breakfast starts with a toast to the King, and this is followed closely by the health of the Bride and Bridegroom. Sometimes

before the health is proposed the best man starts the party going by reading the telegrams and messages of congratulation, and he should certainly do this very soon after the guests are seated. The remainder of the wedding toasts follow during the course of the breakfast, and usually the bridegroom proposes the health of the bridesmaids and best man when he is replying to the bridal toast. The best man responds on behalf of the bridesmaids, saying all the charming things he can think of; if the best man proposes this toast you should ask the humourist of the party to reply to it as this is always treated in a light, amusing vein.

Now come the toasts to the bride's and bridegroom's parents, often included in one. The former, if you are having them separately, is sometimes proposed by the bridegroom's father and answered by the father of the bride, and the latter proposed by the bride's father and answered by the father of the groom. Try to make the speeches as short and simple as you can.

It is sometimes puzzling to know just what should be said by the speakers at a wedding, so you may find that you need my help, but be sure to make it clear to everyone that you think formal, set speeches are unnecessary.

ROSELEAVES AND KISSES

About a quarter of an hour after you have cut the cake, you and the chief bridesmaid will vanish to prepare for the "going away." That is, of course, unless you are remaining for a while to dance with the guests. As you come downstairs someone may shepherd the guests into two long lines through which you and your husband must pass to the waiting car. Try to have roseleaves instead of confetti—your family might see to that for you.

AND ALL THOSE OTHER QUESTIONS

How long should the reception continue? Should the bride remove her veil to dance? What should she do with her bouquet? Is it smarter for the hostess to wear or carry her flowers? These are some of the questions that puzzle brides and mothers when there is a wedding in the air. And I think that most often I am asked about suitable head-covering for the bride's mother and her friends—"Something not too gay and noticeable, yet smart!" Yes, this is a most difficult problem, but there is always just the right thing, and before helping you with suggestions, I would like to hear about your mother's dress, and if possible, meet her myself. Clothes can be just as worrying as the wedding menu, I know, and these important little matters of etiquette can be more puzzling than either.

If You are having a Chairman

Among my visitors I frequently have a chairman—and he is usually looking worried. The duties of a chairman at a wedding are fairly simple, but upon him will fall the responsibility of keeping things going.

He usually dresses similarly to the men in the wedding party, and should arrive at the place of the reception in time to manage the placing of the guests. Sometimes the chairman is also an announcer, but rarely at an average wedding. If there are ushers, he will keep an eye on the seating of the guests; if there are no ushers, he will probably be expected to show the guests to their places, acting as an assisting host at this stage.

He will arrange for the telegrams to be handed to the best man shortly after the guests have found their places, and just before these are read out, the chairman will propose the health of the King. The toast is unresponded.

INTRODUCING THE SPEAKERS

As soon as the best man has read out the last telegram, the chairman will rise and introduce the speaker who is to propose the Bride and Groom. Sometimes it is the clergyman, sometimes an old friend of the family or a relation. The bridegroom will, of course, respond to this toast.

There are no set rules for the introduction of the speakers at a wedding, but the chairman may allow ten minutes or a quarter of an hour to elapse before introducing the toast of "The Bridesmaids." This will be proposed by the best man or one of the most amusing speakers of the party; in the latter case the best man will respond. This toast is nearly always proposed by the bridegroom while he is answering for the bride and himself.

After an interval of ten minutes or so, the chairman asks the bridegroom's father to propose the health of the bride's parents. This is followed by the response of the bride's father, who, in his turn, proposes the bridegroom's parents. All speeches are cut short.

CUTTING THE FIRST SLICE

Towards the conclusion of the breakfast, the chairman hands the cake-knife to the bride, who then cuts the first slice. The cake is cut up by the waitresses or bridesmaids and handed round to the guests. About ten minutes later, if there is no dancing, the bride leaves to dress. During this interval the chairman keeps the party entertained. If there is dancing, he sometimes acts as master of ceremonies, urging the guests to join in whatever has been planned, and seeing that they enjoy themselves.

When it is time for the actual "going away," the chairman gets all the guests together and shepherds them into two long lines through which the bride and groom will pass on their way to the waiting car. It may be his task to see that the bride and groom are not altogether overwhelmed by their well-wishers. If the party is continuing afterwards, the atmosphere of gaiety must be kept up, but not until too late an hour.

The Cars for your Wedding



Your wedding day is the day of all days in your life when you will desire to ride in luxury. Perhaps you will be surprised to find that it actually costs no more to indulge your champagne taste in wedding cars, and a good car service, with its courteous and well-trained chauffeurs, will do a great deal to add to your happiness on this great day.

CHAUFFEURS IN LIVERY

The bridegroom should arrange with the best man about the tipping of his own chauffeur, and he will be responsible for the cost of the car which takes him to the wedding. This car will be used after the ceremony to convey the bride and groom to the reception. If you desire it, your car service will decorate the wedding limousines without extra expense and the usual choice is the white streamer decoration from radiator to windscreen. White flowers are sometimes placed inside. Many people prefer to travel as it were, incognito on the wedding day; if you share this feeling there will be no need to have decorated cars.

AN IDEA OF COST

Now—how many cars will you need? If you are having several bridesmaids they should be given a separate car, but, with one bridesmaid only, rules are sometimes cast aside, and the bridesmaid travels in the car with the bride and her father. Sometimes the bridegroom's car is sent back for the bride—a method that is usually found to be more economical. Your mother will almost certainly have many friends who wish to drive her to the wedding, so there should be no need to hire a special car for her. Costs of wedding cars vary greatly—the average charge being about 15/- for the first hour for every car hired, and slightly less for every hour following. Much depends on the length of the journey, the number of cars required, and the place where the wedding is to be held.

If the clergyman and his wife are coming to the reception, the bride's father should see that their conveyance is properly provided for.

It is the duty of the bridegroom's attendants to see that the cars are ready in convenient order after the church ceremony. The bride and groom travel alone, followed by the bridesmaids and the men of the wedding party in the second, or second and third cars.

The cost of bringing the photographer to the reception must be weighed against the cost of keeping two wedding cars waiting if the photographs are taken between the ceremony and the breakfast.

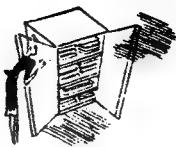


Photographs

It is a matter for your own choice whether you prefer to have your wedding photographs taken before or after the ceremony, during the reception or after the breakfast. You may ask the photographer to call at your home before the wedding or the whole wedding party may go straight to the photographer immediately after the church service. There are many disadvantages to almost any plan—for, at the convenient time when you are waiting with your bridesmaids at home, there is no bridegroom. Between the ceremony and the reception a visit to the studio always creates somewhat of a hiatus in the proceedings. I feel that by far the best way is to have the photographs taken at the reception just before you are ready to change, but this always means extra cost for the photographer's time. As before stated, the question of the wedding photographs is invariably a difficult one, and perhaps you and I could give it careful thought together when you come to see me here.

CATCHING THE GLAMOUR

You will be looking your most beautiful on this day, and, to catch the excitement and the importance of the occasion, the photographer you choose must be imaginative and understanding. There is a special glamour which surrounds every woman on her wedding day—it has been called "radiance," and there is no doubt that you, too, will have this mysterious added beauty. A photographer who really knows his work is able to catch this moment and perpetuate it for you. He also knows clever tricks of modern grouping. In all, he will be able to produce a happy, natural photograph of happy, natural people, irradiated with the glow that comes only on a wedding day. For all time, a picture like this will be among your most treasured possessions.



The Complete Linen Press

Part of the fun of starting out in a new home is fitting out your linen press with a stock of brand-new bed linen, table linen and bathroom accessories which will make your house beautiful. Choose carefully, and you will be proud of your linen for many years to come; more than that, there will be no need for replacements at a time when you are just realising how many more things you need in your new home.

THE PRICE OF GOOD THINGS

Perhaps you have saved a certain amount of money for your linen trousseau, perhaps your family is providing it for you—but in either case there will almost certainly be no money to waste, and I want to make certain that, while you have a comfortable stock of sheets, towels and so on, you buy carefully and buy for the future. Do you know what I mean by "buying for the future?" You must pay enough for every article of linen if you want to save money over the space of years. I will be very glad to go into the matter with you and explain just what price must be paid for good things without running yourself into extravagance. Meanwhile, here is a summary of the necessities of a linen closet for two people starting a home, bearing in mind that a good housewife likes to be ready for an extra guest and a "rainy day."

SHEETS—A FEW HINTS

Allow two pairs for each bed in use, and, if possible, two extra pairs for emergency. The most useful size in a single sheet is 63 in. x 90 in., and it is best not to buy three-quarter sheets unless they are to fit a standard three-quarter bed. Used on a single bed, the width is wasted, and on a double bed there is no allowance for the "tuck in." Whether you choose white or coloured bed linen is a matter for your own choice; coloured sheets lend a pleasant touch of harmony to the bedroom, the dyes are fast and will stand up to boiling, the only disadvantage being the fact that coloured linen, when crushed, looks far more unattractive than white. Hemstitched and monogrammed sheets are always nice to have, and you would find that it costs very little more to buy them. Nowadays we do not stock our linen chests with real linen sheets, which become soiled and crumpled-looking in a very short time, besides being unexpectedly cold to the touch. Most brides choose the heavy, hard-wearing twill or a smooth linen finish, and this is by far the most satisfactory type of sheet to buy.

PILLOW CASES HAVE IMPROVED

These should match your sheets—perhaps half-a-dozen hemstitched and a dozen plain ones. The hemstitched cases cost about 2/- or 3/- and the plain-edged ones should not cost less than 1/3 each. Of course, the envelope pillow slips are almost universal now, and a great improvement on the old-fashioned type which fastened with ties or buttons.

BLANKETS ARE BEAUTIFUL

Checked blankets are quite popular, and you can buy these in lovely pastel shades to match your bedroom. Then there are all-one-colour blankets and others with a wide band of pink, blue, green or maize colour along the edge only. Now, here is something you should remember when you're choosing them. A good blanket has been pre-shrunk from 9 in. larger than its size when you

see it in the shop, and if you select these good quality blankets you can be sure that the 16 years' guarantee means what it says. The blanket will keep its warmth and softness always. The best width for a double bed is the larger size of 98 in. x 81 in., which will allow a comfortable 18 in. on each side; the smaller 90 in. x 72 in. width allows only 9 in. for the tuck-in. With an eider-down, you would need at least two blankets on each bed, and since it is much better to buy these things in the beginning, I should advise you to have at least two more pairs put away. Underblankets will also be necessary.

TOWELS—AND TOWELS

The closer and finer the weave of a towel, the softer and heavier it becomes after laundering a few times. Towels that look soft and thick when you buy them are all too often the coarsely woven type—and when you see the texture underneath the pile, you will understand why these are the cheaper of the two. You should provide yourself with at least two dozen towels, and it would be best to have some of these in plain white. Helping brides almost every day with the important question of linen, I find that most people have a preference for green and orange patterns, but it all depends on the special colour scheme of the bathroom, and with green tiles and linoleum there is nothing more effective than a primrose bathmat; in winter-time brighten it up with a touch of red; or, with a pale blue bathroom, try a bathmat in deeper blue. The standard size for the modern bathmat is two feet by three, the right price is from 5 to 7 shillings, and you will be glad if you add at least three to your stock of linen. Two or three roller towels and a few hand towels complete the list—and in the case of the latter you can afford to count half a dozen or more as gifts from linen teas to come. But again, referring to everyday towels, I want to remind you that a coarse texture and an open-looking weave in the selvedge are warnings of inferior quality, be sure that the linen you are buying now is good enough to save money in the long run.

TEA TOWELS

Buy yourself at least a dozen tea towels, more if you can, and add to them half a dozen special glasscloths. It is quite possible that you will want to rinse out three or four a day.

BED COVERS

I have left these till last because they are so much more fun to choose than the usual bed linen and kitchen towels. You can make your bedroom look beautiful with candlewick bedspreads, or the lovely bed covers in Brussels net which may be used over different coloured underslips to vary the effect. Bedspreads are certainly very beautiful things in modern days. Why not choose one first and build up the scheme of your bedroom around it.

TABLE LINEN—THE FIRST QUESTION

Even if you are not going to entertain a great deal, an amazing toll will be levied on table napkins, d'oyleys and other small items, and you will need a generous stock of matching pieces in table linen. The big question to be decided before you start collecting pieces is the question of mats versus large tablecloths; in either case, you will need the same number of table napkins, and the same supply of supper cloths, breakfast cloths, and incidental mats. Even if you decide to use small mats on your dining table, there will always be plenty of use for one or two attractively checked or patterned breakfast cloths, which may be thrown across one end of the table or used on a small afternoon tea table or auto-tray. You would need at least three or four sets of small

mats—plain hemstitched linen, flowered linen bound in colour, cream linen worked in designs to match your room and for special occasions perhaps a dozen lovely mats of lace with table centre to match. Table mats look well on the polished tables of today, and are easily laundered. If you are going to use double damask or hemstitched linen tablecloths, allow four—three for general use and one for reserve. Coloured table linen is both attractive to the eye and easy on the laundry bill, but the shades should be quiet and restful. White damask still holds its pride of place with modern housewives, and will show up your crystal and silver effectively.

Let your tablecloths be large enough to come well down on all sides of the table. Have eight napkins to match each table cloth or set of table mats, and include matching napkins for your supper and tea cloths.

One or two special supper cloths in lace or madeira work, three cloths for the auto-tray, extras for the sideboard or buffet, and a dozen d'oyleys complete your collection of fine linen. Hostesses who possess attractive and delicate china are dispensing with d'oyleys to a great extent, so that the designs of plates can be seen and admired. Remember that the purchases of today are the heirlooms of tomorrow.

THE FINISHINGS OF A LINEN TROUSSEAU

Before leaving the question of your linen, there are various extras with which you will have to provide yourself and your kitchen. Aprons—so attractive nowadays with their peasant designs and flowers, or, if you prefer them, comfortable easy-to-wear smocks; you will need half a dozen, including one of rubber. Two pairs of washable housemaids' gloves to wear when you are cleaning silver, brass or firegrates; rubber gloves are also useful for protecting the hands. Two chamois leathers for polishing, dusters of some lintless material—about a dozen oven cloths; kettle holders, pudding cloths and a jelly bag. The pudding cloths should be of strong calico. One ironing blanket and sheet; little clips may be bought to hold these to the table, and if you place layers of newspaper between the sheet and blanket there will be no awkward wrinkling.

You will need a number of beaded covers for milk jugs, and a large cover of netting edged with beads or shells for the auto-tray. Two tea cosies with suitable coverings that may be laundered. Two sets of mats for your own dressing table and two sets in reserve. Heat-proof mats for the dinner table—the latest made of asbestos and slipped into linen cases.

COLLECT IT GRADUALLY

Now, although this linen list looks most formidable at first sight, and really constitutes a minimum for comfortable living—don't forget that by collecting things gradually, week by week, and using lay-by, much may be bought over a period of time. That is one reason why I should like to see you many months before the wedding, so that you can collect your complete linen press without feeling the expense all at once. Every shilling you waste between now and the wedding might have bought a tea towel, three or four shillings might have been turned into an attractive breakfast cloth, and every odd sixpence might have gone towards the lay-by on a supper cloth. These small amounts of money are infinitely important in building up for the future, and it is surprising how quickly blankets, sheets and other expensive items become yours if you pay for them like this.

List for the Kitchen



Further on in the book I have said something about labour-saving ideas for the kitchen, but owing to the large number of enquiries about a kitchen list I have added the section below to this issue. The comfort of a house depends a great deal on having the right equipment for cooking, washing and cleaning, and the list should be a useful one to refer to when your kitchen teas are over.

GENERAL

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Meat Safe. | Match holder. |
| Cool Safe (or refrigerator). | Salt and pepper shakers. |
| Set of canisters or jars. | Dust bin. |
| Set of spice tins. | Bucket. |
| Biscuit boxes. | 1 zinc tub. |
| Cake box. | Kitchen tidy. |
| Sugar bin and scoop. | Pair of steps. |
| Flour bin and scoop. | 2 or 3 trays. |
| Chopping board. | Soiled linen basket. |
| Bread board and bread saw. | Clothes horse. |
| 1 wire meat dish cover. | Skirt board. |
| Preserving pan. | Sleeveboard. |
| Jam jars. | Ironing blanket and sheet. |
| Set of scales and weights. | Electric or flat irons. |
| A food mincer. | Iron stand. |
| A meat mincer. | Dipper. |
| Lemon squeezer. | Washing-up dish. |
| Knife sharpener. | Dish mop. |
| Knife box. | Soap Saver. |
| Meat saw and chopper. | Bottle brush. |
| Set of skewers. | Mystic mitts (6). |

COOKING

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Wooden spoons (large and small). | Casserole (large and small). |
| 1 cook's knife. | Set of small Pyrex dishes. |
| Vegetable knife. | 1 large mixing bowl. |
| 1 round-bladed pastry knife. | 1 small mixing bowl. |
| Fish slice. | 3 pudding basins (different sizes). |
| Tin opener | 1 or 2 glass mixing bowls. |
| Kitchen scissors. | 3 pie dishes (different sizes). |
| Corkscrew. | 2 baking dishes. |
| Bottle opener. | 2 jelly moulds (different sizes). |
| Potato masher. | 1 dozen patty tins. |
| Bean cutter. | 2 cake tins. |
| Apple corer. | 2 sandwich tins. |
| Orange slicer. | 3 wire cooling trays. |
| 2 egg whisks. | 1 tart tin. |
| Celander. | 1 set of saucepans (at least 3). |
| Pastry board and roller. | 1 double saucepan. |
| Pastry brush. | 1 wire frying basket. |
| Flour sifter. | 1 steamer (adjustable). |
| Biscuit or scone cutters. | 1 frying pan. |
| 2 enamel plates. | 2 kettles (1 small, 1 large). |
| Coffee strainer. | Teapot. |
| Tea strainer. | 1 kitchen jug. |

2 rubber scrapers.
1 scrubbing brush.
1 nail brush.
Kneeling pad (rubber).

1 graduated pint measure.
2 gravy strainers (1 reinforced, 1 pointed).
Asbestos mats.

CLEANING

Carpet sweeper and brooms, floor
mop, kitchen mop, straw broom,
hair broom.
Dusters.
Dust pan and brush.
1 lamb's wool duster.

Long handled cornice and wall broom.
1 floor mop.
1 dustless mop.
1 set of blacklead brushes.
1 set of black boot brushes.
1 set of brown boot brushes.

LAUNDRY

Washing board.
Laundry basket.
Peg bag, 6 dozen pegs.

Large enamel basin.
Clothes wire.



When You Choose Your Home

Whether you are buying or renting your new house, remember that it will be your home for many years to come.

When you have decided on the district—with regard to happy surroundings, privacy, proximity to train or tram (and eye to the possibility of other houses springing up round you); when you've decided how an inexpensive outer suburb compares with the higher cost of fares—the next thing is the general aspect of your house. The direction of its facing is vitally important if you want to make the most of sunshine and avoid cold dark rooms. Also, I would advise everyone to have some sort of a garden, although you must be sure it is not going to be too big to manage, because a neglected garden will give your house the dejected appearance which in time will react on you. If there is enough room to grow some vegetables at the back, so much the better for your housekeeping bills.

However much you like certain things about the house, don't let them outweigh matters such as sufficient accommodation (there is nothing worse than being really cramped in your living), good drainage, good windows, plenty of cupboards, handy fixtures for gas and electric appliances and good fuel saving fireplaces.

Keep a sharp lookout for patches eaten into wallpaper—this means silverfish; don't be talked into buying or renting a house with any signs of dampness; if you are buying, examine the quality of the woodwork very closely—doors should be firm and solid and quite smooth running. Look out for a steep staircase and a gloomy one. See that the kitchen is handy to the dining room (preferably with a servatory window between). It is better if the house has a separate back door so that all traffic does not pass through the kitchen. Try to avoid a house with definite leadlight colours because these may worry you when you are planning or changing your colour scheme. If the linen press is in the bathroom make sure that there is another cupboard suitable for linen so that you can use this one for china or something which will not absorb dampness from the steam. Remember that steps between rooms and in passages make it very difficult to wheel a loaded auto-tray.

And finally when you are quite satisfied you have found the right house—go back and inspect it again.

Points to Remember when you Furnish

You have decided whether you want antique or modern furniture; you have probably decided on the wood you like best. Now—don't go a step further until you have made up your mind just how much you will have to spend on furniture.

Let us say it is £100—it may be £200 or it may be more like £80, but you will have to be sure that you are dividing the money up fairly between the rooms you have to furnish.

Now—some hints on what to look for in the furniture you are buying, so that you will choose really good pieces that will last you a life time.

Let us take your bedroom first. In your bedroom you will want a spacious mirrored dressing table and a good deep wardrobe. Don't sacrifice usefulness to beauty; see that the dressing table has plenty of drawer space, and a large bevelled mirror (or mirrors). See that the mirror supports are firmly fixed, and test the quality of the glass by putting a coin against it. The greater the difference in depth between the actual coin and the reflection the better. By the way, bevelled mirrors will always set off a suite better than the ordinary ground-edge type of glass, and a glass top on the dressing table is well worth the extra usually charged.

You have probably made up your mind about the colour of your suite—whether it will be light or dark walnut, mahogany, maple, sycamore, or one of many other beautiful veneers; but whatever you do, be sure that the furniture you choose is veneered on good core-stock. The furniture salesman will explain this, and certain firms will be glad to make up just what you want in each piece of the suite. You may choose a dressing table from one suite and a wardrobe from another, and the slight extra cost of having them made up is well worth while. Here are some of the new veneers a good furniture house will be able to show you: American myrtle, Queensland black bean, zebrano, mazur, weathered sycamore, Macassa ebony and Italian walnut.

Now, to return to the dressing table; one of the main essentials is a good solid top. You will also find out a lot about its quality by looking closely at the corners of the drawers, where the sections of the dovetails should fit well without wood or glue plugging.

Unless your wardrobes are of the built-in variety you will be buying these important articles of furniture. You will want to be sure that your own wardrobe is a good deep one, and that the hanging rod is high enough for your evening frocks—it must also have good solid ends. Have one side fitted with drawers (you will find these invaluable) and you could also arrange for one door to be fitted inside with a full-length mirror. Then, your husband-to-be will probably have something to say about his own wardrobe, and for your own sake, see that he selects one that is fitted with at least four deep drawers.

Buy a capacious and "comfortable" wardrobe, and you will find it adds greatly to your enjoyment of your bedroom. Again I want to remind you to see that the veneer is laid on good core-stock.

Just before we leave the bedroom, remember that an adequate shoe-cupboard goes halfway towards keeping the room tidy. Have one specially made if necessary; it will not cost much. The shoe-cupboard should be made with slotted

back and shelves so that the air can circulate freely round your shoes. Another convenient addition to the room will be a bedside table holding a soft shaded reading light.

A Word about Carpets

Actually, a wall-to-wall carpet is not as expensive as you may think—especially if you choose it in a useful monotone colouring. It will subdue noise and keep your house much warmer in winter, besides saving all the work of polishing. That luxurious deep feeling under foot may be obtained even with an inexpensive carpet by putting down a thickness of cow-hair underfelt, and this will double the life of the carpet.

To save your carpets and floors, you must see that good castors or domes of silence are fitted to every piece of furniture so that it may be easily moved about.

The Dining Room

Your dining table will be the centre of attraction for this room and you may be tempted to choose it more for its good looks than its character. Remember that the ideal dining table has plenty of knee-room beneath it.

Remember also that furniture of a simple design and finish is very much easier to keep free from dust.

It is good to know that several furniture firms in Melbourne will make your furniture exactly as you want it. If you see a dining room or lounge suite—let us say on the moving picture screen—just go home and make a sketch of it, take your rough idea to one of these up-to-date furniture houses and they will copy it exactly for you.

About the dining table in particular—there are furniture people who can actually polish your dining table so that the hottest things may be put down without leaving a mark. I had the privilege of seeing a demonstration recently, when a pot which had been boiling on the stove for half an hour was taken off and placed directly on the polished surface. It remained there till it had cooled, and when taken away there was no sign of a mark. This is done by a new polishing process, and you should consider it seriously if you are thinking about having one of the modern dining suites with a highly polished veneer. Perhaps if you are having an oblong dining table, you will prefer to have the corners cut off for safety.

Six standard dining chairs (it is not necessary to have carvers) and a solid buffet complete the actual suite; you will find it useful to have the buffet fitted with a special cutlery drawer which is felt lined, and partitioned off into sections.

The Important Auto Tray

You cannot consider your home properly furnished without an auto-tray. This indispensable article has certainly earned its name of "dumb-waiter," for it enables you to entertain with more than a semblance of elegance under any conditions. With an auto-tray, you can manoeuvre the courses at dinner so that your guests are hardly aware of the absence of a maid. For your own

lunch, the auto-tray is a table and waiter at once, and it may be wheeled into the garden or by the fire for a change. By the way, just try the auto-tray as a labour-saver when you're cleaning out cupboards or ironing or making jam.

The Lounge Room

If you have double doors opening into your lounge you are lucky, for you can add space to the general effect by carpeting the lounge, dining room and hall in a soft monotone and carrying the colour of the walls right through. When you throw the house open to entertain, you will have the effect of one spacious room. Of course, it is hardly necessary to warn you that whatever colour scheme you choose, rooms opening into each other must harmonise. Also that it is impossible to mix several startling, original effects in one room.

Choose one thing as your central theme and build up to it. One of the most beautiful rooms I have ever seen was carried out in monotypes, with its only outstanding feature in the Persian blues and reds of velvet cushions; the suite itself was covered in a subdued tapestry. And, by the way, tapestry is the smartest material for covering just now. It has the advantage of holding the dust far less than genoa velvet, and because it is so popular you will be able to choose from a wider range in this fabric. Genoa velvet, of course, has been popular for quite a number of years, and it will undoubtedly give good service. But whatever you choose see that the backs of the chairs and settee are covered with the same material.

Feel the arms and backs of every piece to see that it is properly sprung and make sure you are buying a suite with spring edges as well as a firm framework. There should also be plenty of depth to the seats. If you are considering a suite with loose cushion seats, pay a little extra and see that the cushions are of latex rubber; these cushions are the most comfortable, and will outlast any other type.

A few small tables in your lounge room will make it look twice as interesting—perhaps you could spend one of your wedding cheques on a nest of little tables; placed conveniently about the room, they will also save many a spill on your carpet. Indirect lighting on the walls will add space to the room.

Remember that some books and a few pottery bowls of flowers are the things that make a house into a home, and above all don't be afraid to use your lounge room. Please don't plump up the cushions and space out the ornaments and furniture—let the house look as if someone is living in it.

In the Kitchen

First — see that you have a draining rack for the china. This will save you half an hour's "drying up and putting away" every time you wash up; at the same time your draining board serves as a storage place for china, keeping your cupboards free for other things.

Besides the usual kitchen furniture, you will need either a refrigerator or a good draught cupboard, and since a refrigerator is still quite a luxury, you will be glad to hear that a well planned draught cupboard will do all that is necessary in keeping milk, butter, drinks and sweets cool in summer-time.

Another great convenience is the tradesman's box, into which things can be delivered from outside when you are away.

Of course, most of us have definite ideas about a severy window between the kitchen and dining room, and I know you will do all you can about this without advice from me. The ideal way is to arrange for a drawer running through under the severy, so that silver may be dried and put away in the kitchen and taken out in the dining room. A shelf on each side of the servery window will make a very useful table.

The kitchen table itself usually has a top of inlaid lino these days, and much scrubbing and hard work is saved in consequence. You can get a smart effect by using the same lino on the chairs. An inlaid linoleum on the floor will last years longer than the ordinary printed kind but it costs approximately twice as much and is very hard to keep clean. So, in the matter of lino, these will be points to consider.

In Furnishing

Remember that simple things are the most beautiful and the best in the end. They are also the most expensive; but even if you have to wait a while for the extras it will pay you to lay a good foundation. You may be able to buy a refrigerator in a year but it will be a long time before you can afford another suite. And apart from the actual furnishings, this applies to everything you are buying. Have a few good pictures rather than many indifferent ones; the Japanese prefer to have only one picture on the wall, just as they will spend hours arranging one bowl of blossom to be the most beautiful and the central feature of a room.

Jobs You Can Do Yourself

Among those jobs about the house which you can do for yourself before the furniture arrives are distempering, staining and painting.

Floor staining should be left until the carpet is down (but not tacked) unless you are very sure about where the edges will come. In staining floors most people prefer an oil stain to a water stain because it is more durable and does not tread out so easily. But an even better way is to use an ordinary hat-dye followed by three coats of raw linseed oil.

Distempering is not at all difficult to do, and has many advantages. It can be washed periodically and it is inexpensive. Consult a shade card very carefully—there are some lovely new colours in distemper for your walls—and then when you are actually mixing the distemper, test it on the inside of a cupboard so that you are sure it is right. It is wise to purchase a well-known brand of washable distemper.

Before starting work on the walls you must see that they are absolutely smooth; nail holes and similar blemishes may be filled up with plaster of Paris that has been mixed with cold water to the consistency of thick cream. If the walls are old and hopelessly rough, cover them with a plain wall paper first.

The distemper must be mixed very thoroughly to ensure an even texture, and as different makes vary, the directions for use should be followed very carefully. Apply the first coat with a distemper brush, using horizontal strokes and holding the brush at arm's length, working the distemper well into the wall. Don't let the distemper settle in the bucket.

In painting new wood, all the knots should be brushed over with knotting, and then given a coat of priming. It is essential that there is a good smooth undercoat before the final coat is applied. If the surface has already been painted a rub-down with sandpaper should be sufficient, but if you are applying a light colour over a dark one, an undercoat as well as the sandpaper may be necessary. If stripping the old paint is essential you can use a paint remover and a stripping knife.

Perhaps you are making your own curtains, too. Don't forget to allow plenty of turnings and to measure the height and width of your windows very carefully before you cut into the material. Curtains and soft furnishings must be made of material that is guaranteed fadeless.

And Then—Insurance

This is the most serious page in my book and I want you to read it carefully. It concerns not only your future happiness, but your future safety.

Because you have proved yourself willing to face the great responsibilities of marriage, you should be ready to face the one greatest risk and to provide for it. When your husband speaks to you about the necessity of insuring his life, you must be prepared to stand by him, even if it means doing without something you need in your home. If anything happened to him your income might disappear entirely, and this might occur at a time when two or three children have to be provided for. In any case, you have to think of your old age, so go together to a good assurance company, have the full particulars explained so that you may be sure of the best terms, and then prepare to enjoy life with a mind at rest.

Now with regard to the house on which you have spent so much time and thought and money. Unfortunately, there are so many awkward things that may happen, and these are dangers too real to be gaily forgotten during the excitement of getting married. The house might be damaged by fire or lightning, and, of course, there is always the risk of serious loss by burglary. Even if the house itself is not your own concern, you still have the contents of your home to consider—furniture, pictures, books, clothing, jewellery—possessions that mean a great deal to you because they really ARE your home. It is so easy to be sure, and I want to know that whatever happens you will spend that little extra money to see that your new property is insured. Fortunately, the insurance companies have made the whole business as simple as possible. It should only cost you about a shilling a year for every £20's worth of property.

Remember that with the exception of furniture, no single article is valued at more than 5 per cent. of the total insurance—if you have anything especially valuable it should be described and valued in detail. And remember, too, that insurance will be automatically suspended if the house is left unoccupied for too long; also that certain parts of the insurance do not cover letting or sub-letting.

Many Happy Returns of Your Wedding

1st Anniversary	Cotton Wedding
2nd Anniversary	Paper Wedding
3rd Anniversary	Leather Wedding
5th Anniversary	Wooden Wedding
7th Anniversary	Woollen Wedding
10th Anniversary	Tin Wedding
12th Anniversary	Silk and Linen Wedding
15th Anniversary	Crystal Wedding
20th Anniversary	China Wedding
25th Anniversary	Silver Wedding
30th Anniversary	Pearl Wedding
40th Anniversary	Ruby Wedding
50th Anniversary	Golden Wedding
60th Anniversary	Diamond Wedding



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See Elizabeth Brookes in the
Blue Room at MANTON'S. Bourke Street, Melbourne